

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 /090 W
-----089068 280530Z /10

R 270800Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 443
INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL SURABAYA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, ID
SUBJECT: RELEASE OF POLITICAL DETAINEES

REF: JAKARTA 10077

1. JULY 27 PRESS CARRIES IMPROMPTU REMARKS MADE TO JOURNALISTS AFTER JULY 26 BANDUNG RELEASE CEREMONY (REFTEL) BY STAFF GENERAL YOGA SUGOMO IN WHICH YOGA DENIED THAT FOREIGN PRESSURE HAD BROUGHT ABOUT THE RELEASE. REPLYING TO A REPORTER'S QUESTIONS, HE SAID INDONESIA HAS BEEN RELEASING DETAINEES SINCE 1975, "LONG BEFORE US PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER STARTED HIS CAMPAIGN ON HUMAN RIGHTS". YOGA OBSERVED THAT THE RELEASES WERE PART OF INDONESIA'S OWN POLICY, WHICH WAS IMPLEMENTING THE UN DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. WEST JAVA MILITARY COMMANDER MAJ. GEN. HIMAWAN SOETANTO ADDED THAT THE RELEASE OF THE DETAINEES WOULD OPEN THE EYES OF THE WORLD TO THE FACT THAT INDONESIA WAS FOLLOWING A POLICY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF BEING A LAW-ABIDING STATE.

2. FEW PROMINENT NAMES AMONG THE RELEASED PRISONERS
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HAVE SURFACED IN THE PUBLICITY TO DATE. FORMER DEPUTY CHIEF OF AIR STAFF MARSHAL SUMARTO WAS RELEASED IN JAKARTA (AND MET BY MERCEDES, PRESS REPORTS.) LOWER RANKING MILITARY OFFICERS, THREE FORMER MAYORS, SOME PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLYMEN, AND SOME LOCAL INTELLECTUALS WERE REPORTED AMONG THE 715 RELEASED IN BANDUNG. FORMER UNIVERSITY LECTURER OF DUTCH ORIGIN IN SLAMET,

WHO WAS MET BY HER INDONESIAN HUSBAND, WAS WELL PHOTOGRAPHED
JAKARTA RELEASEE. MANY INTERVIEWS WITH THE BANDUNG RELEASEES WERE
PUBLISHED THE
NEXT DAY IN THE JAKARTA PRESS WITH A SYMPATHETIC
"HUMAN INTEREST" TREATMENT FOR THEIR TEARS OF HAPPINESS
OR, IN THE CASE OF THOSE WHO WERE NOT MET BY FAMILY
OR FIRENDS, CONFUSION AND UNCERTAINTY ABOUT WHERE TO GO.

3. OFFICIAL STATISTICS CITING 15,605 AS THE NUMBER OF
DETAINEES NOW REMAINING TO BE RELEASED DURING THE NEXT
TWO YEARS STATE THAT 800 OF THESE ARE CATEGORY A
DETAINEES WHO WILL BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL (OR ASSIGNED TO
CATEGORY B FOR RELEASE). THE LATTER FIGURE MAY BE IN
ERROR, AS OURLAST TOTAL FOR CATEGORY A WAS 1833 AND WE
HAVE HAD NO REPORTS OF LARGE TRANSFERS OF DETAINEES
FROM CATEGORY A TO B. WE WILL CONFIRM TOTALS WHEN
AVAILABLE.
GARDNER

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Message Attributes

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